

in Tampa. It is an anonymous poem, it is entitled, "Miss Me, But Let Me Go."

When I come to the end of the road
And the sun has set for me,
I want no rites in a gloom-filled room,
Why cry for a soul set free?
Miss me a little, but not too long
And not with your head bowed low.
Remember the love that was once shared,
Miss me, but let me go.

For this is a journey we all must take,
And each must go alone.
It's all part of the Master's plan,
A step on the road to home.

When you are lonely and sick of heart,
Go to the friends we know,
And bury your sorrows in good deeds.
Miss me, but let me go.

Mr. Speaker, our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of these courageous officers. May they rest in peace.

I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a tremendous sense of loss and sadness that I rise today to express my sincere condolences to the families and friends of Detective John Gibson and Capitol Police Officer Jacob Chestnut and to their colleagues in the Capitol Police. I would also like to offer my sincerest gratitude to all of our Capitol Hill security personnel who each and every day risk their lives for us, and whom oftentimes we take for granted. Thank you for your service, your commitment and your valor.

Detective Gibson was truly an officer's officer. His work exemplified the truest meaning of service. He is remembered by colleagues, friends and neighbors alike as someone who would do whatever he could do to help, someone who always made people feel safe.

Officer Chestnut was a stalwart of service and professionalism. He always exhibited genuine kindness and gentleness to all of us who were privileged to know him. My family and I remember his assistance during my swearing-in ceremony, his incredible kindness, his guidance, his tremendous warmth.

These two heroes gave their lives in the line of duty in protecting their fellow citizens. They paid the supreme price so that others may live. They leave behind families, friends, coworkers, communities and Americans who will never forget their commitment and their sacrifice. Their passing leaves a void that will never be filled.

We join with the families to remember the special times, and in doing so, Detective John Gibson and Officer Jacob Chestnut will have a permanent place in our hearts. May they rest in peace.

HONORING THE BRAVERY OF DETECTIVE JOHN GIBSON AND OFFICER J.J. CHESTNUT

(Mr. SKEEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, the Nation mourns the death of two Capitol law enforcement officers whose lives were taken in the tragic shooting incident last Friday during a busy time in our Nation's Capitol.

As we reflect on this sadness, I cannot help but think what could have happened if these two men had not been so courageous and sacrificed their own lives so that others may live, and for this we owe them a great deal of thanks and gratitude for protecting the lives of all who visit and work in the Nation's Capitol. Today we honor their memory and pay tribute to their heroic action.

□ 1400

We offer our heartfelt sympathy to the families of Officers Chestnut and Gibson, to Mrs. Chestnut and Mrs. Gibson. We know your deep sense of loss. For that we pray, so that you may somehow feel comfort during this difficult time.

And to your children, we can only hope that your pain will heal in time by knowing that your father is a national hero, and will always be remembered as a courageous and honorable man who gave his life to protect others. May God bless you and may God bless America.

Let me say one other thing that was a gift from these gentlemen. They unified this House, this great Capitol, the two Houses, and we are unified throughout the United States in awe of this great gift that these two gentlemen have afforded us. We thank them from the bottom of our hearts, and will remember them always.

COMMENDING AND HONORING OFFICER JACOB J. CHESTNUT AND SPECIAL AGENT JOHN M. GIBSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURR of North Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise for the constituents of the 10th Congressional District of New Jersey in support of two great men who gave their lives on Friday to protect our Nation's Capitol and its visitors. I send my greatest condolences out to the families of Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Special Agent John M. Gibson for their bravery and quick action last Friday.

It is the Capitol Hill Police Force that makes it possible for us to do our jobs every day. They also make it possible for all visitors to the Capitol to be able to experience the legislative process, the proceedings which taken here.

I would like to commend and honor those two great men today for their years of service and bravery while protecting everyone who comes to this Nation's Capitol. This tragedy has

touched all of our lives, because it reminds us that no one is protected from violence and guns and people in need of mental care, even in the halls of Congress.

I have had the pleasure of getting to know many who serve on the Capitol Police Force, and I commend them, as always, for their sharp responses to situations, in addition to their friendly disposition. It has been an honor to have such men as Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson, who protected us while we were in these hallowed halls.

I will forever be indebted to them for their commitment and protection, and for the safety of the public. They are true heroes, and their bravery is testimony to the best of what our country has to offer.

The Capitol Police officers who selflessly gave their lives are not the only ones who need to be remembered. There was also an innocent bystander who was injured by stray bullets as she escorted her family around the Capitol, Angela Dickerson. I want to send my deepest condolences to her and husband Steve, and their entire family.

Angela was the innocent victim of that random act of violence. I wish her the best of luck in her recovery. We are rooting for her quick and painless recovery, and Angela, we hope that you will come back again to join us in the Capitol, despite your unfortunate experience. This is the people's House, and it must remain just that, open to the people of this Nation.

Angela's experience remains us that no one is protected from random acts of violence. One of my interns, Teresa, was directly above the shooting after delivering a resolution to the floor, and she was lucky not to be directly at the scene. This has been a sad and emotional experience for all of us, whether we knew the victims or not.

Let me just say that prior to my time in Congress, I served as an elected official in municipal and county offices. On the local level, law enforcement, outside of education, is the largest expenditure of local budgets. Because of this, a lot of time is spent with law enforcement people, and we become more cognizant of their sacrifices, the long hours of the police officers, their time away from their families, the day-to-day danger, and their overall dedication of public service.

Let me conclude by saying that an old Negro spiritual said, Let the work that I have done speak for me. There was the age-old saying that, if you can help somebody along the way, then your living shall not be in vain. Officer Chestnut and Agent Gibson's work that they have done speaks for them, and certainly their living has not been in vain.

Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Ms. DANNER).

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JOHN GIBSON AND JACOB CHESTNUT

Ms. DANNER. Mr. Speaker, the Bible tells us, greater love hath no man than

this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. I rise today to join my fellow Members of Congress to honor the memory of John Gibson and Jacob Chestnut, who died defending not only our lives but democracy itself.

These men were our friends, like so many Capitol Hill police officers who serve and protect us day after day, Congress after Congress, decade after decade. They do so with a quiet dedication and an obvious devotion. Whether helping a Member of Congress or any of the millions of visitors who come to Capitol Hill every year, Capitol Hill police play a vital role in assuring that American democracy works. They do so with thousands of acts of devotion and dedication to their duty. We know they may have to perform the ultimate act of devotion, but we also pray that they never do.

John Gibson and Jacob Chestnut made the supreme sacrifice, and we know they did so without hesitation. They were our friends, our protectors, and they laid down their lives, not only for us, but for the freedom that this institution represents.

CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF OFFICER CHESTNUT AND SPECIAL AGENT GIBSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, as the Nation and the Capitol Hill family and, of course, the families of Special Agent Gibson and Officer Chestnut deal with this extraordinary tragedy, we, of course, extend our condolences to the immediate family members and their dear friends, including all of our friends here on Capitol Hill who have been so impacted by this.

One cannot help but think of what it is we can learn from this, and what it is that this has taught us. Of course, we have all, over the past few days, expressed greater appreciation for those men and women who are on the front line as Capitol Hill police officers than we have ever have.

I have always prided myself on being friendly and talking with them, but there have been more than a few occasions where I have been in a hurry and rushed by. Over the weekend and yesterday and today, of course, like all of my colleagues, we have stopped and taken a moment to express our appreciation. We all know how important gratitude is.

We also must remember, as we have just had the opportunity to walk by the two caskets in the great rotunda, and in about 45 minutes we will be moving into the Rotunda for this service, but we have to remember that this experience shows us the magnitude of man's humanity to man. We know it is, from this experience, our deeds that make us great, and while we have been talking, as we do so well here, we know that our words are important, but it is our deeds that will be remembered.

Mr. Speaker, these two men exemplify the simple, everyday greatness of self-sacrifice. I join in extending condolences to the Gibson and Chestnut families, and wish them God speed.

IN TRIBUTE TO OFFICER JACOB JOSEPH CHESTNUT AND DETECTIVE JOHN GIBSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, without excessive repetition, I would like to join my colleagues in the House to pay tribute to Officer Jacob Joseph Chestnut and Detective John Gibson, who gave their lives dutifully protecting this hallowed institution.

These two heroes were great points of light for all Americans. It is important that we all come together across party lines and across all other differences to pay homage to these two heroes. As we pay tribute to the dead, let us also honor the other police and protective forces and other staff members whose reverence for this institution is no less than and sometimes even greater than the reverence of elected members.

In paying tribute to our defenders, we reaffirm the fact that this House of Representatives and the democratic process, this government, belongs to all of the people. We reaffirm the fact that we are the guardians of a sacred process that takes place within the halls of this Capitol.

This democratic process cannot survive without institutional support. This process and the institution have become inseparable. This is the great democratic process that guarantees our freedom and guards our national progress.

It is the process that inspired the bravery and the courage on the beaches of Normandy. It is the same process that applauded and rewarded the returning World War II heroes with more than merely marches and medals.

This Congress, this institution, passed the G.I. Bill, that offered unprecedented educational opportunities to every veteran. This is the democratic process and the institution that followed the leadership of the assassinated President, Abraham Lincoln, and passed the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments, ending slavery and guaranteeing equal treatment and the right to vote.

This is the process and the institution that, while mourning the death of John F. Kennedy, accepted the wise and forceful guidance of President Lyndon Johnson in the passage of the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act.

This is a sacred place and a sacred process. They must at all times be protected and defended. Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson instinctively understood the nature of our mission. The workings of this institution are more complex than the wiring or gadgets of any nuclear submarine. The impact of

the results of what we conclude here has more explosive power and long range consequences than any space rocket ever fired at NASA.

To keep this institution relevant and capable of meeting the challenges of our rapidly changing and demanding world, we need the elevator operators, the cleaning staff, the receptionists, the analysts, the secretaries, the directors, chiefs of staff, coordinators, counsel, information specialists, administrative assistants, and yes, we need the detectives and the police. All are vitally necessary. A complicated world demands an intricate governmental infrastructure.

The democratic process within this infrastructure must be protected because the twin monsters of insanity and violent savagery are always scratching out there at the door. In the last 50 years, the bullets of assassins have dramatically altered history in America. Some victims were President John F. Kennedy; Martin Luther King, Junior; Robert Kennedy; and the almost-murdered President Ronald Reagan.

Against the twin monsters of insanity and savagery, we must do more than merely mourn the loss of our heroes. Most Americans can only grieve with the families of J. J. Chestnut and John Gibson. We 435 Members of Congress can do much more.

In paying tributes to these heroes, we Members of Congress should seek a solidarity across party lines and beyond the usual philosophical and ideological agendas. In defense of this great institution and to protect all vulnerable Americans, we must unite and act as one. Let this be a time of new reflections, new insights, and new resolve to find ways to disarm the proliferating number of insane and savage assassins.

The second amendment was designed to make us safe from tyranny, to bolster our sense of security. No well-regulated militia should allow the rampant and random distribution of firearms among the populace.

In the name of our Capitol heroes, Officer Jacob Joseph Chestnut and Detective John Gibson, and for the sake of the families of all similar victims, let us resolve, as powerful decision-makers, as Members of Congress, let us resolve to end the escalating terror of handguns in America.

ON THE DEATHS OF OFFICER JACOB CHESTNUT AND DETECTIVE JOHN GIBSON

(Mr. GUTKNECHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, we gather today to honor two men in a way that has been reserved for Presidents and military heroes. Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that we would honor these two slain Capitol Police officers as only 26 other Americans have been recognized.